

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed November 9, 2006.

The Examiner reminded applicants of the guidelines of the preferred layout of the specification, such as the section headings, which, with this amendment, have been incorporated into the specification. Further, the Examiner objected to the drawings because they do not include all reference sign (s) mentioned in the description, specifically, item 10 and 60 were missing. Replacement sheet(s) is/are provided with this office action to remedy the missing numerals. Applicants request entry of the replacement drawings.

Moreover, the Examiner rejected Claims 10-12 under 35 USC §, 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Similarly, the Examiner has rejected Claims 10-12 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants have amended the specification and added the subject matter of claims 10-12 in a narrative form, which claims filed in the originally filed Sec. 371 application. Thus, no new matter was added.

Further, the Examiner rejected Claims 23-25 and Claim 26 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Similarly, the Examiner has rejected Claims 23-25 and Claim 26 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants have amended the specification and added the subject matter of claims 10-12 in a narrative form, which claims filed in the originally filed Sec. 371 application. Thus, no new matter was added.

The Examiner also rejected Claim 1 (and Claims 2-28 as dependent on claim 1) as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “function module” was defined in the specification on page 3, line 24 to page 5, line 6 and page 7, lines 9 to page 8, line 3..

Similarly, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 (and Claims 2-28 as dependent on claim 1) as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “process module” was defined in the

specification on page 5, line 15 et seq. Processors and process modules are also known in the art.

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “universal adapter” was defined in the specification on page 3, line 9 -16, and page 8, line 5 et seq. .

The Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 9 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “communication module” was defined through the specification.

The Examiner rejected Claim 3 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “two knob controller” was defined on page 3, line 10-16 and through the specification.

The Examiner rejected Claim 3 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “easily operated in the same manner” was eliminated by the present amendment.

The Examiner rejected Claim 10 and 11 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “locating module” is supported by the amended portion of the specification, provided above, which in turn is based on language from claims filed with the present application.

The Examiner rejected Claim 16 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “wherein the data transmission to the process module can just as easily be accomplished using hard-wired I/O connection”. Applicants submit that this sentence is clear to a person skilled in the art: Applicants also point to the figures 2c, 2e, 2d, where a wireless data transmission is shown, or a transmission via a hard-wired connector.

The Examiner rejected Claim 17 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “universal adapter includes **a function to automatically register connected function modules**” is clear for a person skilled in the art. Applicant points to page 8 of the specification, line 5, where the concept is discussed.

The Examiner rejected Claim 19 and 20 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “ [the function modules have two control elements and at least one item selected from the group consisting of an] acoustic-/visual signal elements, a function display and a display on the module.” Applicants submit that this sentence is clear to a person skilled in the art: Applicants also point to page 8 line 1 et seq. of the application, where it is explained that “[a]nother type of function module 40 [is] equipped with sensors to record acoustic and video signals and with a large color display and loudspeaker enables audiovisual communication.

The Examiner rejected Claims 19- 21 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “control element” is clear to a person skilled in the art: Applicants also point to page 10, paragraph starting on line 5, the control element 36 is explained, see also the figures.

The Examiner rejected Claims 21 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “the at least one function module [**can be easily operated**] **are operable** **through two of the four control elements** located on the universal adapter concerning basic functions of data recording, data transmission or status inquiries ” is clear to a person skilled in the art.

The Examiner rejected Claim 22 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term

“the at least one function module, and the universal adapter can be **expanded in operation and configuration** through the four control elements located on the universal adapter” Applicants submit that this sentence is clear to a person skilled in the art.

The Examiner rejected Claim 23 and 24 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “user modes”. Applicants submit that this sentence is clear to a person skilled in the art.

The Examiner rejected Claim 25 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “wherein the process module includes a function to change the user mode of the universal adapter.” Applicants submit that this sentence is clear to a person skilled in the art.

The Examiner rejected Claim 28 as being rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The term “Wherein diagnostic and therapeutic plan monitoring and medical monitoring software is integrated into the universal adapter,” Applicants submit that this sentence is clear to a person skilled in the art.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-28 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,790,178, issued to Mault. Mault discloses a physiological monitor modules for use with computing devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs). The personal digital assistant provides the controls, display, and processing circuitry for the physiological monitor module. The personal digital assistant stores data from the physiological monitors so that the data may be used in various software applications. The physiological monitor and the personal digital assistant include accessory slots sized to accept memory modules, which may be used to transfer data therebetween. In yet other embodiments, the physiological monitors include data storage but do not include onboard processing capability, and data is transferred to a personal digital assistant either during or after use of the physiological monitor.

Applicants submit that Mault teaches a system which may be connected to various function

modules, however, it does not teach a plurality of function modules acting at the same time. Further, Mault does not teach a universal adapter in form of an individual module as claimed in claim 1. Instead, the PDA taught by Mault teaches both functions of the process module and the adapter. Also, Mault discloses an operation of the function module via the PDA. However, there is no basic control mode disclosed which would allow a uniform control of all function modules. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Mault does not anticipate claim 1 and the directly and indirectly pending claims.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicant respectfully requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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